CLAIMS

[c1]   1.   A computer-implemented method for providing code to computer systems, comprising:

receiving base code and developer-specified characteristics of the base code from a developer;

translating the received base code into an intermediate code;

evaluating the intermediate code to determine whether the received base code satisfies the developer-specified characteristics;

notifying the developer whether the received base code satisfies the developer-specified characteristics;

receiving a request for target code from a requester, the request including requester-specified characteristics that the target code should satisfy;

selecting intermediate code that matches the requester-specified characteristics;

transforming the selected intermediate code to target code in accordance with the requester-specified characteristics; and

sending the target code to the requester.

[c2]   2.   The method of claim 1 wherein the base code is source code and the target code is executable code.

[c3]   3.   The method of claim 1 wherein the evaluating includes determining whether the developer is authorized to submit base code.

[c4]   4.   The method of claim 1 wherein the developer-specified characteristics identify a functional category for the code.

[c5]   5.   The method of claim 4 wherein the functional categories include networking, communications, client-server, user interface, Internet browsing, electronic mail, audio, video, telephony, television, compression, encryption, logging, feature manager, hardware interface, or miscellaneous.

[c6]   6.   The method of claim 1 wherein the transforming includes optimizing the intermediate code in accordance with the requester-specified characteristics.

[c7]   7.   The method of claim 1 wherein the transforming includes compiling the intermediate code to produce executable target code in accordance with the requester-specified characteristics.

[c8]   8.   The method of claim 1 including billing for providing the target code to the requester.

[c9]   9.   The method of claim 8 wherein the billing includes compensating the developer for the sending of target code that is based on base code provided by the developer.

[c10]   10.   The method of claim 8 wherein the billing is based on per use receiving of target code by the requester.

[c11]   11.   The method of claim 8 wherein the billing includes differential billing based on the requester-specified characteristics.

[c12]   12.   The method of claim 1 wherein the transforming of the intermediate code uses beads of a *Strings*-based operating environment.

[c13]   13.   A computer-implemented method for processing developer-provided code to be distributed to requesters when requested, comprising:

receiving base code and developer-specified characteristics of the base code from a developer;

evaluating the base code to determine whether it satisfies the developer-specified characteristics;

notifying the developer whether the received base code satisfies the developer-specified characteristics; and

when target code that derives from the received base code is distributed to a requester, compensating the developer.

[c14]   14.   The method of claim 13 including:

receiving a request for target code from a requester, the request including requester-specified characteristics that the target code should satisfy;

selecting intermediate code that matches the requester-specified characteristics;

transforming the selected intermediate code to target code in accordance with the requester-specified characteristics; and

sending the target code to the requester.

[c15]   15.   A computer-based method for providing code for computer systems, comprising:

providing a collection of intermediate code;

receiving a request for target code from a requester, the request including requester-specified characteristics that the target code should satisfy;

selecting intermediate code that matches the requester-specified characteristics;

transforming the selected intermediate code to target code in accordance with the requester-specified characteristics; and

sending the target code to the requester.

[c16]   16.   The method of claim 15 wherein the selecting uses a least-squares analysis based various characteristics of the intermediate code.

[c17]   17.   The method of claim 15 wherein the selecting is based on processor speed requirements, processor type, or memory requirements.

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